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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 28, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Richard H. Sanger
Chairman, Panel "H"
Department of State

I am attaching for your information a copy of the Standard PSB Planning Form (E-5), which the Director has approved for use on a trial basis as of this date. Hitherto, there has been no standard form for PSB plans, but in comparing the attached form with that of the PSB plans which have so far been developed, it will be noted that the former is simpler and more concise. This desirable result is achieved, in my view, without sacrificing logic or clarity, or omitting any essential elements. It should be noted, however, that under the attached form the main body of the plan is not merely supported by the annexes but is actually derived from Annex A, and that this Annex, when noted by the Board, has the value of authoritative guidance. Consequently, Annex A is basic to the plan as a whole and should be developed before attempting to establish the Psychological Objectives or the Basic Tasks.

Both the advantages of the Standard PSB Planning Form and the manner of applying it to a particular planning problem are indicated by a sample plan for Germany which is also attached. This document has been prepared merely for illustrative purposes, and there is no intention of proposing it as a modification of PSB D-21, which has recently been approved by the Board and promulgated in the blue copy. While the sample German plan (E-6), as stated in the note under the title, has a slightly narrower scope than PSB D-21, the basic subject matter is the same and a cursory comparison of the two documents is enough to show that the sample plan is substantially shorter and easier to read. It could have been made even more concise had it not been desired—for purposes of illustration—to indicate in some detail the application of Paragraph 3 of the Standard PSB Planning Form. Such detailed development of the Guidance in Paragraph 3 may not be necessary in all cases, and it should be noted in this connection that the Standard PSB Planning Form is sufficiently flexible to leave the planners a good deal of latitude in applying it to varying problems.

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Issuance by the Director of a Standard PSB Planning Form on a trial basis was authorized by the Board at its mid-day meeting of October 30, 1952, and the attached form will remain in force until further notice. Needless to say, the Director will give careful consideration to any modifications proposed by Member Agencies or suggested by experience. Furthermore, if any PSB Panel should encounter difficulties in adapting the Standard PSB Planning Form to a special planning problem, the Director is prepared to accept departures from the Form when the need for them is adequately established. The Standard PSB Planning Form itself is so flexible, however, that if applied judiciously it should fit nearly any conceivable PSB Planning problem.

With regard to current PSB plans which have already reached the draft stage, it is left to the discretion of the panel chairmen as to whether or not to recast developing plans in accordance with the Standard PSB Planning Form. In principle it is desirable that all plans presented to the Board from now on should follow the Standard PSB Planning Form (E-5), but when plans have already reached such an advanced state that recasting them in accordance with the Standard PSB Planning Form would involve serious delay, they may be left in whatever form the panel has already adopted. In some cases it may be useful to follow only certain portions of the plan which have been completed earlier.

In the case of PSB D-22, it is left to your judgment as to what modifications, if any, should be made in existing drafts.

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Assistant Director
Office of Plans and Policy

Attachments:

E-5 Standard PSB Planning Form
dated November 20, 1952, COPY NO. _____

E-6 Sample PSB Strategy Plan
dated November 20, 1952, COPY NO. _____

SECURITY INFORMATION

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

attached to